



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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Week Ending September 21, 2008

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**Excellent week for Field Work:** The sunny days and cooler temperatures made field work comfortable for farmers. A total of 6 days were suitable for field work last week. Principal farm activities included making hay, spreading manure and lime, planting alfalfa, barley and wheat, picking fruit, as well as harvesting corn, tobacco, and potatoes. Farmers are also continuing fall plowing, as fall plowing is now 42 percent complete.

Galveston/Houston area due to flooding (induced by both rainfall and storm surge) and high winds. In the lower Mississippi Valley and neighboring areas, cotton, rice, sorghum, and soybeans that were adversely affected by Gustav were subjected to another round of gusty winds and locally heavy rain. Farther north, a moisture-laden cold front preceded Ike's arrival. Moisture associated with former eastern Pacific Tropical Storm Lowell entrained into the cold front contributed to 4 to 10-inch rainfall totals from western Texas into southern Michigan. On the southern plains, downpours halted winter wheat planting preparations and threatened the quality of sorghum, open-boll cotton, and other unharvested summer crops. In parts of the southern, central, and eastern Corn Belt, crops such as corn, sorghum, and soybeans were subjected to flooding rains or wind gusts as high as 60 to 75 M.P.H., or a combination of both, raising concerns about lodging and crop quality. Elsewhere, chilly weather settled across the northern Plains and the upper Midwest, while warm, dry weather promoted fieldwork and crop development in the West Coast States. Widespread temperatures below 40 degrees F were noted across the northern Plains and the upper Midwest on September 8-9, but immature corn and soybeans escaped the cool spell without injury. Cool weather settled into the Northwest early in the week, followed by several chilly days across the northern Plains and the upper Midwest. By mid-week, cool weather returned to the West. Record warmth also prevailed toward week's end around the periphery of Hurricane Ike. Locally heavy showers dotted the Northeast, where Scranton, PA (1.58 inches on September 9), netted a daily-record amount. Heavy rain lingered along the Mid-Atlantic Coast through September 11. Farther west, phenomenally heavy rainfall developed on September 11 on the central and southern High Plains.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 21, 2008

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
11	32	57	0

**Crops:** Corn condition was estimated as 64 percent good or excellent, unchanged from last week. Twelve percent of the corn is poor or very poor. The state's corn is 95% at the dough stage, 78% dented, 33% mature, and 13% harvested, compared with the five year average of 97%, 84%, 52% and 15% respectively. Soybean condition improved, as 71% of the soybeans were rated as good or excellent. This is compared with last week's 65 percent. Winter wheat planting is 16% completed, compared with a 12% average. Corn silage harvest is 61% completed, compared to a 65% average. Barley planting continued strong and is 37% complete, compared with the average of 29%. Ten percent of the barley has emerged, which is the same as the average. The potato harvest is 47% complete, which is 7 points lower than average. The tobacco harvest is 92% complete, which is the same as the five year average. The fourth cutting of alfalfa continued and is 67% complete, which is 18 points ahead of the average. Hay quality improved last week, as 82% of the hay made was of good or excellent quality, with 2 percent rated as poor or very poor. The apple condition improved slightly and is estimated at 73 percent good or excellent. The apple harvest is 40% complete, compared with last year's 61% and the average of 53%.

**Corn:** Ninety-six percent of the corn acreage reached the dough stage, 4 points behind last year and 2 points behind the 5-year average. Progress in all states was within 7 points of normal. Seventy-eight percent of the nation's acreage reached the dent stage, 17 points behind last year and 11 points behind the 5-year average. In most areas, the crop was developing at or behind the normal pace. Nineteen percent of the corn acreage reached maturity, 39 points behind last year and 25 percentage points behind the 5 year average. Corn condition was rated 61 percent good to excellent, unchanged from last week.

**Livestock:** Only 20% of the state's pastures were estimated as good or excellent condition, which is 1 point more than last week. Fifty percent of the pastures were rated as poor or very poor, compared to last week's 41 percent. Overall, the state's pasture condition was estimated as follows: 19% very poor, 31% poor, 30% fair, 16% good, and 4% excellent.

**Soybeans:** Condition of the crop was rated 57 percent good to excellent, unchanged from the previous week.

**U.S. as of September 14, 2008:** Hurricane Ike made landfall on Galveston Island, TX, at 2:10 a.m. CDT on September 13. Maximum sustained winds were near 110 M.P.H., making Ike the third category 2 hurricane (along with Dolly and Gustav) to strike the U.S. this year. Ike was the sixth consecutive named Atlantic Basin tropical system to make landfall in the U.S. (following Dolly, Edouard, Fay, Gustav, and Hanna), breaking the satellite-era record of five storms in a row set on several occasions, most recently in August-September 2004. Ike had a profound effect on the

**Winter Wheat:** Producers had planted 11 percent of their winter wheat acreage, 1 point behind last year and 5 points behind the 5-year average. Cooler temperatures kept planting activities behind schedule. In most states the planting was within 7 points of the usual pace.

## Weather Data For Week Ending September 21, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 21, 2008					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	88	52	66	3	0.14	2	18.54	-2.91	74	2,762	380	4,390
Franklin	87	44	62	2	0.11	3	21.94	-1.77	84	2,349	133	3,976
Meadville	83	45	61	2	0.21	2	20.62	-3.00	79	2,341	310	3,967
Mercer	85	46	62	2	0.03	1	22.66	0.08	85	2,313	118	3,947
Springboro	83	42	60	-3	0.25	2	26.25	5.32	81	2,140	-209	3,739
Warren	84	42	61	2	0.00	0	22.62	-1.16	81	2,234	87	3,829
North Central												
Bradford Region	80	33	55	-1	0.03	2	20.87	-2.91	96	1,672	112	3,187
Emporium	84	39	59	2	0.06	1	18.33	-5.11	84	2,248	483	3,857
Kane	82	34	57	2	0.07	2	21.34	-2.84	81	1,660	132	3,179
Laporte	78	38	56	-5	0.00	0	23.90	2.01	84	1,975	-222	3,544
Lock Haven	87	40	62	2	0.01	1	17.71	-3.85	72	2,575	243	4,230
Port Allegany	84	37	58	2	0.03	1	16.67	-5.81	81	1,859	139	3,410
Renovo	88	41	62	2	0.01	1	17.99	-3.57	70	2,491	159	4,137
Ridgway	84	39	59	2	0.10	2	20.25	-3.32	81	1,860	95	3,425
Stevenson Dam	85	40	61	4	0.06	1	16.27	-7.30	72	2,329	564	3,943
Towanda	88	39	61	1	0.00	0	20.00	1.79	73	2,314	101	3,927
Wellsboro	81	34	56	-2	0.00	0	17.60	-0.70	81	1,821	160	3,371
Williamsport	87	42	63	0	0.00	0	20.01	-1.18	72	2,805	234	4,484
Northeast												
Hawley	87	37	59	2	0.00	0	20.95	0.26	67	2,123	223	3,705
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	88	43	61	-2	0.00	0	18.75	-1.34	70	2,617	178	4,249
Susquehanna	86	38	59	2	0.00	0	22.22	0.18	82	2,211	409	3,817
West Central												
Butler	86	43	62	1	0.00	0	17.30	-5.13	89	2,278	-20	3,924
New Castle	91	45	66	5	0.00	0	18.91	-1.57	80	2,664	364	4,330
Slippery Rock	86	47	63	4	0.03	1	22.66	0.81	74	2,307	240	3,974
Central												
Altoona/Blair	84	42	60	-2	0.00	0	19.09	-0.38	80	2,510	67	4,152
DuBois	83	41	60	1	0.02	1	21.17	-1.38	89	2,200	84	3,795
Lewistown	89	44	63	-1	0.00	0	22.58	1.64	70	2,706	25	4,356
Middletown	89	48	65	0	0.00	0	20.60	-0.19	59	3,226	202	4,920
Prince Gallitzi	86	43	61	2	0.04	1	22.87	-2.22	75	2,096	127	3,699
Selinsgrove	86	43	62	0	0.00	0	19.16	-2.56	66	2,625	117	4,274
State College	85	46	62	2	0.00	0	19.60	-0.09	68	2,661	250	4,314
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	91	41	63	-2	0.00	0	20.96	-1.82	58	2,836	70	4,496
Lehighton	83	43	61	-3	0.00	0	19.21	-3.40	69	2,563	-105	4,208
Matamoras	87	42	62	1	0.05	1	20.57	-2.28	73	2,367	-45	3,971
Mt_Pocono	82	37	57	2	0.00	0	19.67	-4.64	77	2,010	359	3,574
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	86	49	64	3	0.01	1	18.88	-1.89	71	2,838	381	4,522
Derry	86	45	62	1	0.06	1	25.12	3.46	84	2,436	114	4,092
Myersdale	84	39	58	-5	0.07	2	25.72	2.13	78	1,832	-457	3,411
Mount Pleasant	88	44	62	2	0.00	0	23.54	-1.11	75	2,407	330	4,076
Pittsburgh Intl	87	49	64	2	0.00	0	19.60	0.07	71	2,776	204	4,458
Connellsville	89	46	65	2	0.12	1	26.66	3.63	81	2,740	121	4,423
Waynesburg	88	44	63	2	0.01	1	24.02	2.67	68	2,464	78	4,134
South Central												
Biglerville	90	45	64	-2	0.00	0	24.69	5.15	62	2,927	-28	4,600
Everett	87	41	60	-2	0.00	0	23.97	5.05	69	2,315	-121	3,947
Hanover	89	43	63	-3	0.00	0	24.43	4.89	66	2,894	-61	4,562
Harrisburg_AP	89	46	64	-2	0.00	0	17.12	-3.67	49	3,142	111	4,839
South Mountain	85	43	61	-1	0.00	0	29.61	10.14	78	2,306	-130	3,926
York	89	41	62	-4	0.01	1	27.32	6.36	68	2,914	-28	4,603
Southeast												
Green Lane	90	46	64	1	0.00	0	26.00	3.94	66	2,968	322	4,648
Hamburg	89	43	64	3	0.01	1	19.16	-6.21	64	2,981	564	4,661
West_Chester	91	41	64	-2	0.00	0	22.05	-1.88	53	2,872	-65	4,539
Lancaster	88	45	63	-2	0.00	0	20.76	-1.43	59	2,880	84	4,553
Neshaminy Falls	82	44	63	-1	0.00	0	20.81	-4.75	53	2,971	208	4,653
New Holland	91	46	65	2	0.00	0	23.58	1.39	59	3,042	246	4,722
Philadelphia	91	53	69	2	0.00	0	18.55	-3.11	51	3,553	344	5,268
Philadelphia NE	93	50	68	2	0.00	0	16.69	-4.97	56	3,660	451	5,378
Reading	92	46	65	1	0.00	0	18.55	-5.17	63	3,109	360	4,791
Valley Forge Na	90	46	65	-2	0.00	0	24.58	1.49	60	2,871	-236	4,559
Willow Grove	90	46	65	2	0.00	0	20.06	-5.50	61	3,174	411	4,868

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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# Internet Reporters Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney (FSA)** - Adams County had a nice week of weather conditions. There was no rain and soil was still somewhat dry. Morning temperatures at the beginning of week were in the 70's, with daytime temperatures in the 80's. The mid week mornings were in the 50's, with daytimes into the 70's. Friday and Saturday were both 48 degrees in the morning and warmed to the 70's during the daytime.

Corn silage continues to be harvested, with some later corn still maturing. Early planted soybeans are getting a nice height to them and filling out, but the later planted soybeans are still not too tall. Crop insurance adjusters are out appraising corn and soybeans due to this summer's drought conditions. Some farmland was prepared for the barley and wheat that were planted. More will be seeded once corn is harvested. Hay continues to be made with alfalfa cuttings showing nice growth and the mixed hay showing decent growth.

The peach harvest is almost complete. Apples are in full harvest with the growers harvesting for processors. There are quality concerns for apples due to summer hail storms. The early summer wet weather also affected quality causing some scab. Vegetables and pumpkins are also being harvested in Adams County.

Overall, Adams County's crops are fairing ok. The Upper Adams area is preparing for the National Apple Harvest Festival. The festival will be held in Arendtsville, PA on October 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. They will be celebrating with all kinds of apples used to prepare all kinds of enjoyable food.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter** - This has been an outstanding week for apples. There were bright, sunny days with temps in the 70's coupled with nights in the 50's. The weather has made for an excellent progression of apple maturity. Color on early red varieties has been excellent. Brix levels are much higher than normal. Soil moisture is adequate and harvest is progressing at a normal pace.

**BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT)** - The rains over the last couple of weeks have really helped the soybeans, particularly the double-cropped beans. Deer are really hammering beans in certain parts of the county, reducing yields. Yields on the first few corn fields harvested have been surprisingly good. Last week had excellent weather for making late hay.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA)** - Potato harvesting was one of the main activities last week. Even though there was no rain, the cool weather kept the fields from drying out.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - Last week was a good week for silo filling and fall field work.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - Last week was a great week for farming activity. The week had sunny days and cooler temperatures, which made working the land very enjoyable. Producers were harvesting hay or haylage and checking moisture in preparation for harvesting corn silage. Pastures are overall in fair condition with some farmers supplementing hay or green chopping for their cattle.

**ERIE COUNTY, Nancy L. Lewis (FSA)** - The cool, dry, and breezy days permitted producers to continue with chopping of their corn. Grape producers are preparing to harvest the Niagara grapes.

**FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA)** - The counties are very dry. The high winds from September 14 and 15th caused a lot of forest damage, power outages, and minor building damage. Many acres of corn silage are being harvested. It soon will be time to shell corn. The corn is drying down very fast compared to last year.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr** - Last week was a pleasant week for field work such as harvesting apples, and planting fall seeding. It was great weather for putting the finishing touches on the apples.

**LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT)** - The apple harvest is progressing nicely with average yields and fair quality. The dry weather in August reduced fruit size somewhat. Vegetable harvest is on schedule. The early September rains helped keep plants actively growing.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - Cutting corn silage was in full swing last week, with respectable yields. Soybeans are turning yellow with the leaves beginning to drop. Planting of cover crops and sowing of barley took place in many areas. Cutting of fourth cutting alfalfa also took place. The main activities for the week were silo filling, planting, and spreading of lime.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Eric Oesterling (EXT)** - Last week had great weather for harvest.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - Last week was another dry week with normal temperatures. Corn silage harvest is progressing well with some better than average yields reported. Corn and soybeans are maturing quickly because of the continuing dry and warm conditions.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 21, 2008**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	42	40	33
Corn, dough	95	100	97
Corn, dent	78	91	84
Corn, mature	33	64	52
Corn, harvested	13	17	15
Corn silage, harvested	61	66	65
Barley, planted	37	24	29
Barley, emerged	10	0	10
Wheat, planted	16	12	12
Tobacco, harvested	92	88	92
Potatoes, harvested	47	38	54
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	67	52	49
Apples, harvested	40	61	53

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 21, 2008**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	12	24	47	17
Soybeans	0	4	25	62	9
Quality of hay made	2	0	16	62	20
Pasture	19	31	30	16	4
Apples	0	2	25	50	23

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